

AF/AM/50

A SEAT AT THE TABLE: A FORUM WITH ALUMNAE LEADERS

Panel: “A Seat at the Table: A Forum with Alumnae Leaders”

Friday, November 8, 2019

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Kresge Auditorium, Visual Arts Center

A timely and insightful discussion about black women and leadership. Hear about the experiences faced by black women from arrival on Bowdoin's campus, to adjustment, to gaining “a seat at the table.” Saddie Smith '75, Tamara Nikuradse '84, P'21, Major Marnita Thompson Eaddie '90, Krystal Barker Buissereth '08, and Awa Diaw '11 share perspectives on navigating power structures, finding mentorship and sponsorship, embodying leadership qualities at all career stages, and more.

Moderated by **STACI WILLIAMS SEELEY '90**.



SADDIE SMITH '75 grew up in Ossining, New York, where she moved with her family from North Carolina at the age of eleven. Saddie was part of the first class of women admitted to Bowdoin, where she majored in classics and earned a Sewall Latin Prize. After graduating from Bowdoin, Saddie earned her JD at Columbia School of Law and worked for law firms in New York and Chicago before joining Consolidated Edison in 1982. Having recently retired as vice president of facilities and field services, Saddie held several executive

roles for the company during her thirty-seven-year career, including corporate secretary for Consolidated Edison, Inc. and corporate secretary and associate general counsel for its largest subsidiary, Consolidated Edison Company of New York. Saddie serves on the board of Broadway Housing Communities, a nonprofit that has provided housing and comprehensive support services to underserved adults and families in New York since 1983. Saddie lives in Cortlandt Manor, New York, with her husband, Lowery Bogue, who teaches history at Ossining High School. She and Lowery have two grown children, Mychal and Krystin.



TAMARA NIKURADSE '84, P'21 is a teacher, author, and self-described “corporate refugee.” After majoring in African American studies and sociology at Bowdoin, she went on to earn an MBA at Harvard and worked for over fifteen years as a marketing executive before being drawn to teaching.

She went on to earn her master's in education at Lesley University, and apprenticed at Shady Hill School in Cambridge before teaching at a public school in Boston and at Milton Academy. In 2016, she was named founding fifth grade teacher at Dana Hall School, an independent school for girls in Wellesley, Massachusetts. She served as a Bowdoin trustee from 2004 until 2014, when she was elected emerita. Tamara is the author of nine books, including *African-American Wedding Readings* and *My Mother Had a Dream: African-American Women Share Their Mother's Words of Wisdom*, and coauthored with her husband, Scott Matthews '84, *To the Woman I Love, Thank You for Being Mine* and *Dear Mom and Dear Dad*. Tamara and Scott live in Wellesley and have two children: Cole and Chanel '21.



MAJOR MARNITA THOMPSON EADDIE '90 is a computer security expert and major in the United States Air Force. After graduating from Bowdoin as a physics major, Marnita earned a master's in computer science with an emphasis on computer security from the Air Force Institute of Technology. She is the author of the book *Dialable Cryptography for Wireless Networks*, which describes her research into developing an adaptive cryptographic protocol to allow the secure transfer of sensitive or classified information

over wireless networks. Marnita is currently working at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, validating cyber security practices and implementation for Air Force bases. Marnita and her husband, Nathaniel Eaddie, have four children: Nathaniel, Terrence, Martinique, and Richard.



KRYSTAL BARKER BUISSERETH '08 is an executive director, a CFA® charter holder, and the head of financial wellness at Morgan Stanley. Financial wellness provides personalized financial education, advice, and solutions to help employees of Morgan Stanley's Clients improve their financial knowledge, as well as identifying their needs. Before joining Morgan Stanley, Krystal held a leadership position on the digital strategy team at Goldman Sachs, working closely with senior leadership to develop and execute the growth strategies of Ayco. Prior to assuming her digital role, Krystal was an advisor in the Investment Management Division, where she developed and managed multi-asset class portfolios for individuals, families, and nonprofit organizations. Krystal was a business development strategist for the head of Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management, focused on accessing growth and cost saving opportunities for the division. Before her role at Deutsche Bank, Krystal was an investment banker at Lehman Brothers/Barclays, executing capital markets transactions for the firm's most strategic clients. Krystal serves as a New York Board Trustee of the Point Foundation, an organization dedicated to the empowerment of promising LGBTQ students through scholarship funding and leadership training. Krystal earned her MBA with honors from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and her AB, *cum laude*, in mathematics and economics from Bowdoin.



AWA DIAW '11 was born in Senegal and was raised in Harlem, in New York City. She earned her BA from Bowdoin, majoring in Africana studies, with a minor in French. Awa later earned an MA in education policy and social analysis from Teachers College at Columbia University, followed by an MBA from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Awa spent most of her postcollege career in education, working at the Fay School, New York City Department of Education, Barnard College, and various charter schools and nonprofits. Most of her work has been around diversity and inclusion initiatives, resource reallocation, data analysis, and policy and program evaluation and implementation. Awa joined Microsoft as an MBA intern the summer of 2017 with the HR services team and came back full time in July 2018 and spent her first-year rotation in Global Talent Acquisition. Awa is currently in her second rotation as a global diversity and inclusion project manager supporting Microsoft's corporate, external, and legal affairs team, known as CELA. In her “spare” time, Awa works on her natural skin care and hair care company, Nekawa Beauty. She loves taking care of her plants, traveling, reading, dancing, cooking, and eating desserts every opportunity she gets. Awa lives in Seattle, Washington.

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